Review of nuclear power programme

2481. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Russian scientist, Mr. Sakharov, is reported to have said that all nuclear reactors are inherently unsafe; and

(b) if so, whether our nuclear Power programme needs to be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) The reported statement of the Russian scientist Sakharov that all nuclear reactions are inherently unsafe is not understandable. There are several types of nuclear reactions, none of which is unsafe. If the reference is to nuclear "reactors", a well-designed reactor, following correct operational procedure can be operated safely.

(b) The Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors which are the mainstay of the Indian nuclear power programme offer certain intrinsic advantages with respect to safety; some of these are inherently available while others are specially engineered safety systems. This is reflected in the satisfactory safety record of our nuclear reactors.

Equity Participation between KMML IREL

2482. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for equity participation of the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) with Kerala Metals and Minerals Limited (KMML); and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal involves very large investments and hence participation of the Government, directly or through the Indian Rare Earths Ltd., is dependent on the availability of resources during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Sale of Light Water Reactors to India by Russia

2483. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the objections raised by the USA in respect of sale of two light water reactors for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu by Russia.

(b) what is the reaction of Russian authorities in respect of the American objections to the sale of the said reactors; and

(c) what is the present status of the supply of the same by Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Government have taken note of media reports in this regard.

(b) The Russian authorities have indicated that the proposal to set up a 2 x 1000 MWe VVER type Light Water Reactor Nuclear Power Station would not be affected by the objections raised by the U.S.A.